

**BYRON-SHELLEY-KEATS. IN
MEMORIAM ENDOWED YEARLY
PRIZES: PRIZE ESSAYS; WITH LIFE
INCIDENTS OF THE FOUNDRESS,
ROSE MARY CRAWSHAY**

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VARIOUS

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BYRON-SHELLEY-KEATS.

In Memoriam
ENDOWED YEARLY PRIZES.

PRIZE ESSAYS
BY COMPETITORS.
4TH SET.

[EACH WRITER IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR HIS OWN ESSAY.]

WITH LIFE INCIDENTS OF THE FOUNDRESS,
ROSE MARY CRAWSHAY.

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BRECONSHIRE :
MRS. CRAWSHAY, CATHEDINE, BWLCH.

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PREFACE TO SECOND THOUSAND.

IN offering to the world a second edition, it is always well to be able to say "with new matter"—and as the following courtesies of the press are now "out of print," they will be virtually to some persons "new matter."

One who has been "well abused" in the noontide of life may be pardoned; when at the sunset hour the lights have changed, and actions and even "fads" are judged by a different standard; if she yield to the egotistical temptation of the following reprints.

It is hoped that the coloured ink and variations in the size of type may render the following pages easy reading for aged eyes.

Noteworthy Men and Women of Wales.

MRS. ROSE MARY CRAWSHAY.

BY C. WILKINS, F.G.S.

IN the spring of the year 1846, upon a fine May day, there was a break in upon the dull monotony of life at Merthyr. The sound of work, of the incessant blazing fires, and of the thud of the huge hammers, and the passing to and fro of the army of labour, many as black as night, came to a welcome pause. And thousands literally abandoned work and home, and thronged for miles down the Cardiff Road, for the news had gone forth that Mr. Robert Crawshay was coming home that day, and bringing with him his bride. Few men were more popular than the great ironmaster, and there was a hearty desire to welcome him home. And, in addition, there was a certain spice of curiosity, not confined altogether to the gentler sex, for the rumour was that she was very beautiful, and would have adorned the noblest house in the land. So down the road went the thousands, some carrying stout cords. It was not fitting, said they, that the master and his wife should come by train. The carriage must be drawn by lusty fellows, and the cheers of loyal-hearted men should make the hills resound. And it was done.

The boys of that day are old men now, apt to saunter by the wayside and exchange recollections with familiar friends. Few events in their lives outshine the grand entry of that day. Mr. Crawshay with delight beaming from his face ; she, waving hands more fair than it had been the lot of our dusky Hebes to witness, herself beautiful as a poet's dream. And around surged the dense crowd, huzzaing, with one mighty volume, until the castle was reached, and with parting thanks the great event came to an end, and the night fell, and voices of the multitude died away. The event was followed by a good deal of rejoicing, balls and banquets. In some of the old Merthyr houses engravings are yet preserved of the grand ball, taken in honour of the occasion, when the grandsires and grand-dames of the present generation attended in the stiff fashion of the day, and tripped it merrily, the workmen thronging around the place not forgotten, and all delighted. Such was the entry of Mrs. Rose Mary Crawshay into her new home, and from thence until comparatively late years she became a prominent figure in Merthyr life. At our request, Mrs. Crawshay, who now only resides amongst the hills in midsummer, has penned her early recollections. It will be fitting that these precede the notice of her Merthyr career. We give the reply as received :—

“ You ask me for some of my earliest recollections— to begin with, will give you one still earlier ! *viz.*, that I was born on January 17th, 1828, at Horton Grove, the whole country round being at that time submerged,